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## SPIRIT LILIES.

**P**ANCRATIUM and hymenocallis are two genera so closely related that for garden purposes they are synonymous. They have a greater variety of common names than any other plants I can recall. The snowy whiteness, delicate texture and airy movement of the flowers make the name of "Spirit Lilies" seem most fitting to many, while in different localities the plants are known as "spider lilies," "rail-road lilies," "tape lilies," and even as "crow pizen" with the Georgia and Florida "crackers."

Pancratiums are chiefly native to regions bordering on the tropics, and such species must generally be cultivated in pots, but there are several kinds that flourish in the open ground wherever it does not freeze much below the surface. In some old gardens of our Southern States delightful clumps have established themselves. *Pancratium rotatum* is the species most used for garden culture, and it is one of the most beautiful. A big clump is often full of flowers from August until frost. It likes a light situation and sandy soil, to be planted well and afterwards let alone, in this resembling the true lilies. Grown in pots in colder climates, it ought never to be repotted until the roots become much crowded; then carefully cut away the dead roots and repot in a compost of loam, leafmold and sand. Drainage should always be provided, but the plants are fond of moisture and even when resting should never become "bone-dry."

It is interesting to watch the flowers of the *pancratium* begin first slowly to shake and finally to snap quickly open, spilling so rich a freight of fragrance that it seems to have split their petals. They usually open in the evening when such perfumes are most enjoyed.

This fragrance is likened by turns to that of the tube-rose or lily of the valley.

A good root of *Pancratium rotatum* will usually send up one thick, strong stem, topped by a cluster of blossoms, often twenty-five to a stem. These stems open but two or three flowers each day, so that its blooming time is usually extended from ten days to two weeks. From the stalk one can strip a single flower with tube and stem five to eight inches long, so that it can be used very gracefully as a cut flower.

The general appearance of *P. rotatum* suggests the *crinum*, and in localities too cold for it to live over winter outdoors it may be grown like the *crinum*, dried and stored in sand over winter.

Whether grown in pots or garden beds the top of the bulb should always be covered a few inches, and also be kept moist. Dry bulbs can be flowered in from

three to six weeks after potting. *P. maritimum*, the "sea daffodil" of the Mediterranean, is almost as easily grown as *P. rotatum*, and much resembles it. *P. amœnum* makes a beautiful specimen plant for pots; I doubt if it would be hardy here in the Carolinas.



PANCRATIUM ORNATUM.



Another native of the south is *Hymenocallis speciosa*, with broader leaves and broader-petaled flowers, with segments beautifully arched. This, also, is fine for garden culture.

The species most liked for pot culture seems to be *Pancratium ornatum*, a native of the West Indies. It is an easy plant to manage and can sometimes be made to bloom twice in a season by partially dry-

ranging in appearance from good to bad, in private and other grounds everywhere, show the universal craving for this kind of garden beauty.

Now while the beauty, the inexpensiveness and the general desirability of well formed curves as applied to walks, border outlines, drives, etc., in garden adornment is at once recognized, the matter of designing and laying out such seems not

series of bends which shows two or more projections or bays of about the same size from any one point, is weak in effect. Secondly, in the instance illustrated the bends, besides being too frequent, are so short that they are not easy to follow by whoever passes along the walk or drive. For the last reasons the tendency of the pedestrian or horse, would be to follow a curve approaching that of the dotted line *AA*. The result would be that the projections would be shaved by wheels, while weeds spring up in the bays. Such a drive is unpleasant to look at, as well as unpleasant to follow.

How easy it is to avoid the faults named, is shown by fig. 2. This design is more simple in character, as there are less curves involved, than in the other. Thus we have indicated another excellent principle in garden design, namely, that of simplicity; it should always be put down as a prime element in garden beauty. It is seen, by a comparison of the circles (dotted) which enter into the formation of the curves of the two figures, that such circles, having their centers at *ccc*, are decidedly unequal, while those of the other and faulty design are quite uniform in size. The gain for beauty in fig. 2 is evident at a glance. Here strength, grace and repose, all lacking in the other, are at once apparent. And in use the advantages of the handsomer approach are quite as much in evidence. Notice, for instance, the dotted line *BB*,—it would be more natural and pleasant to follow. Neither the shaved projections or the weedy bays of fig. 1 would be possible.

Here it should be said that what is true of the faulty appearance of serpentine

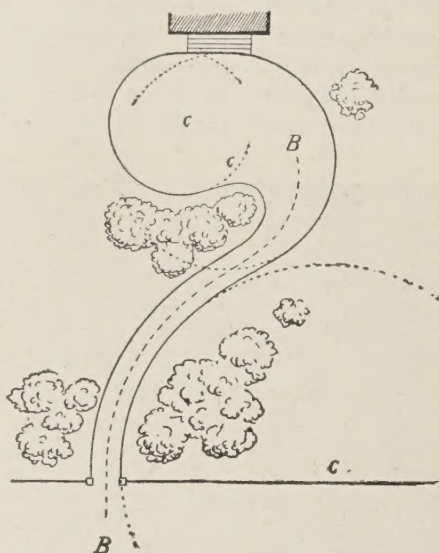
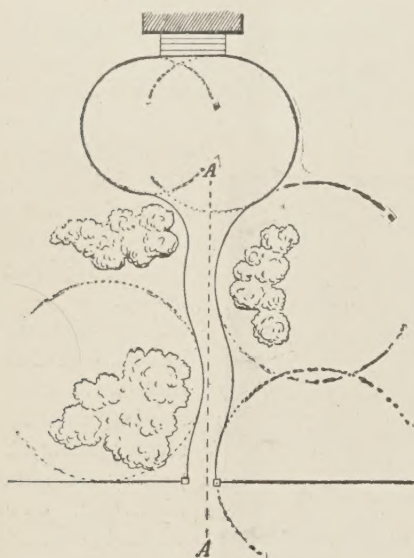


FIG. 1.—A FAULTY SERPENTINE STREET APPROACH. FIG. 2.—ITS SUBSTITUTE OF MUCH BETTER APPEARANCE.

ing it off after flowering, then giving it plenty of water and a moist atmosphere when it begins growth. Its great, snowy umbel of fifteen to forty sweet-scented blossoms make it a valuable plant both for decoration and cutting. We leave the top of these bulbs above the soil, and do not expect from a small bulb after its first potting more than from three to five flowers.

The descriptions and recommendations which professionals give to *pancratium* and *hymenocallis* are not generally so enthusiastic as to induce many amateurs to grow them. They cannot be very profitable plants for northern florists to handle, but they are among the most beautiful and satisfactory plants that a southern amateur can grow. At the north they are usually grown as greenhouse plants, blooming in spring and resting under the shade of some tree during summer, until time to take them in for winter. I think it will be found that nearly all species can be given garden culture like the *crinums* and then I am sure that the "Spirit Lilies" will be loved and appreciated as they deserve.

L. GREENLEE.

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#### GARDEN CURVES.

IN ornamental grounds, the curves may be considered as features of the highest adorning quality that cost nothing but the forming of them. There is a degree of beauty in every series of well designed curves that irresistibly attracts the eye of the beholder. This is a fact not only recognized by every landscape gardener, but the presence of curves,

to be very well understood. The object of this article, therefore, is to invite attention to certain principles in the tasteful formation of garden curves, and which should have wide value with amateurs and others. It is to enable the reader to avoid the errors that are so numerous in this kind of work, and to produce curves that will be a constant delight, that has led to this writing. To render the mat-

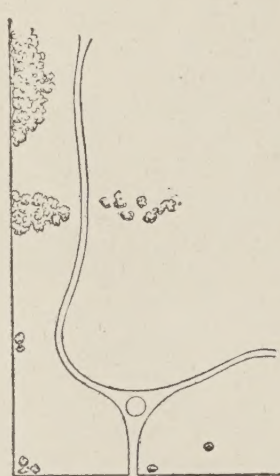


FIG. 3.—FAULTY CURVES IN PUBLIC GROUNDS.



FIG. 4.—WITH CURVES IMPROVED BUT THE PLANTING BADLY LOCATED.

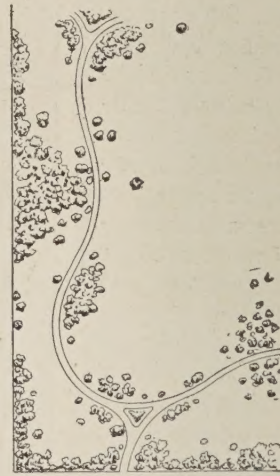


FIG. 5.—CURVES THE SAME AS IN FIG. 4, BUT PLANTING IMPROVED.

ter clear, a number of illustrations are introduced.

In fig. 1 is seen a front entrance drive with turning place, that shows a commonly met fault in garden curve-making. It is that of the serpentine form of drives which represents a succession of bends nearly uniform in size. Such a walk or drive is open to several objections: First, it may be accepted as a principle that any

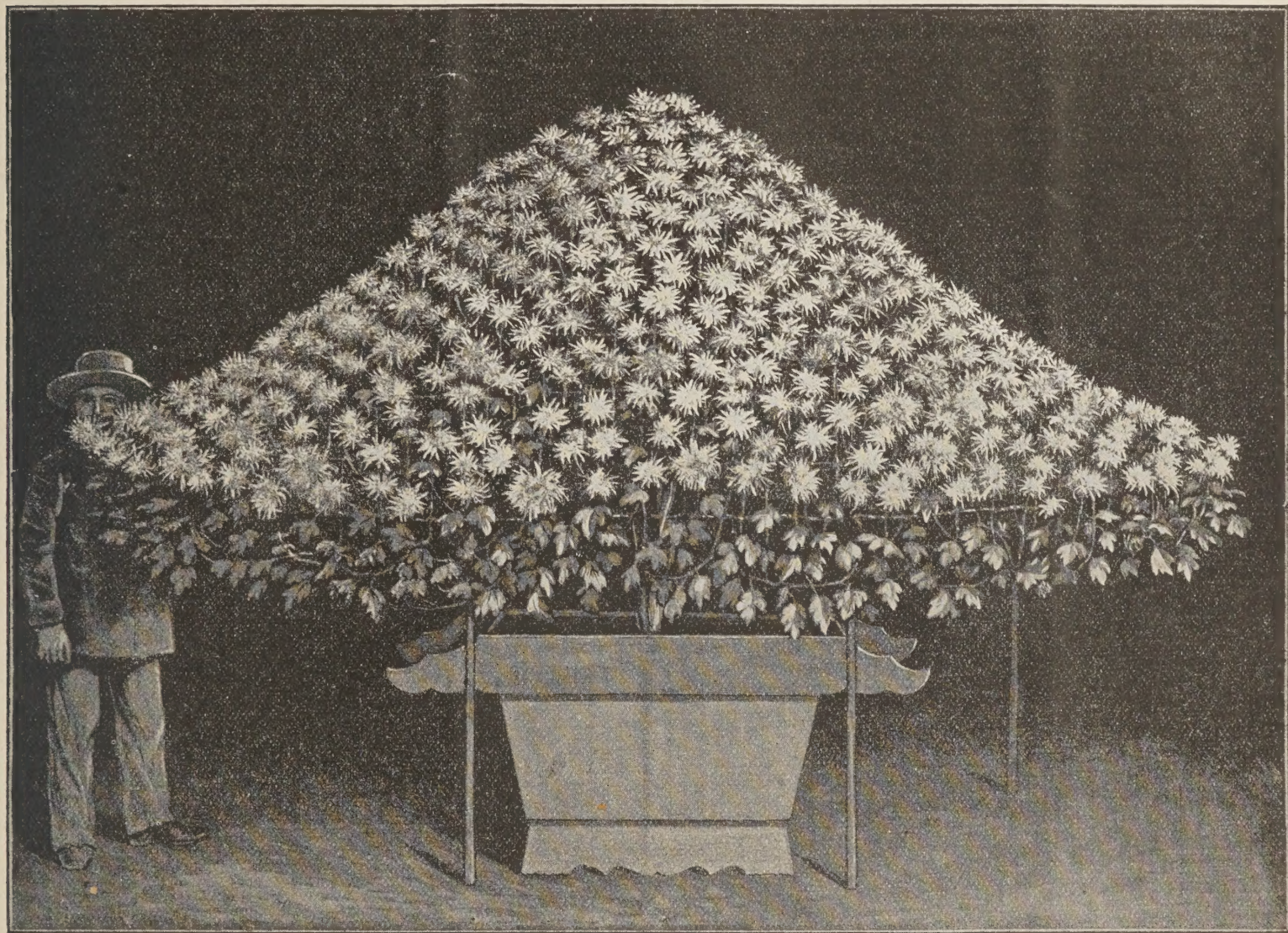
curves, as shown in the drive of fig. 1, is equally true of curves in the outlines of garden and park borders. The writer frequently meets with borders in which the bends are nearly uniform in size and distance apart, and often numerous at that. Such effect is always bad as compared with outlines in which circles of different sizes enter into the basis of the outlines, something after the manner of fig. 2.



From a front entrance we turn to the matter of curved drives within pleasure grounds of larger extent, as shown in figs. 3 to 5. As a starting point in drawing our lessons, we will take fig. 3, which shows the actual form of a drive in a public garden recently visited by the writer. Clearly there is something wrong with the lay-out of this drive, for neither as seen in the plan or in the park does it satisfy the eye. The trouble is that the curves lack handsome form and proportions. The turns are not well rounded and they are ill-shapen as a whole. Beginning at the entrance (bottom of the

Curves there are, but they are so slight as to at once convey an impression of weakness which mars the beauty of the scene. Turn to the other engravings and we see the improvement that is needed, viz: A degree of grace and boldness that is much in harmony with that of the front drive in fig. 2. It will be noticed also that in fig. 1 as well as in fig. 5 we have much variation in the size of the bends, that is, in the size of the circles of which the various curves may be said to be parts, as suggested by dotted lines in the first figures. For instance, in figs. 4 and 5 as the left-hand drive is followed, first,

the curves of the drives, pleasing as they are in outline, are purely arbitrary; there is no clear reason why the drives occupy the place they do. Now, whether grounds possess natural wood or whether trees must be planted, there should in all cases be a seeming reason why a drive or walk takes this or that course. The reason for a curve may be that of getting around a clump of trees or a mound, or else leading up to buildings or to a bridge, and so on. In the present case, as the grounds are quite level, we must depend chiefly on tree groups to show why the system of curves takes a certain course.



A JAPANESE SEEDLING CHRYSANTHEMUM TRAINED IN PYRAMIDAL FORM.—see page 188.

cut,) the first curve to the left beyond the the small circle is too abrupt in its course. This is at once understood by a comparison with the improvement of the same, shown in fig. 4. In the latter the same curve has an easy, well shaped form that is attractive at a glance. Apparent as this is in the drawing, it would be even more so on the grounds, for graceful curves in park walks and drives are always a most pleasing allurements to the visitor.

Then, if in fig. 1 the curve alluded to is too abrupt in form, the same drive further along is open to exactly the opposite criticism; it is too tame in appearance.

there is a short bend to the left leading into the bolder one, which then, as it swings to the right, is continued into a much larger and longer curve that again bears to the left, and which ends in two short curves at the junction, all contributing to pleasing form and variety.

From form in curves let us briefly note the relation of planting to them. It is seen that the course of the drives in figs. 4 and 5 are alike, but the location of the tree and shrub groups wholly different. In this regard fig. 4 is faulty, while the other figure sets forth the right idea of relations.

What is the fault of fig. 4? It is that

A glance at fig. 5 will explain this point. It is seen that the drives follow the course they do for the excellent reason of getting around masses of trees and shrubbery in the progress through the grounds. If, then, the plantations are beautiful and interesting and the curves are graceful and bold, the delight of passing through the place is all that could be desired. Another advantage of arranging drives thus, on correct principles, is that the view is broken at various places. For instance, in fig. 4, as well as fig. 3, the entire drive is in view from a vehicle at the entrance to the grounds, or from any point along the drive shown. In fig. 5, on



the other hand, one can see the drive but a short distance from any point, the view being interrupted by trees and foliage in a way that is most delightful.

To see grounds portion by portion is really more pleasing than to have a glimpse of the whole from any one point. In the former there is always the inducement to go beyond and explore the delights of the place. In the latter a person might be inclined to say, "We see all from here, why be at the pains of going further?" \*

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## CONIFERALES.

No. 2. \*

**CUNNINGHAMIA SINENSIS** is a monotypic Japanese tree of considerable size, and the most hardy of the araucaria-like pines in the South Atlantic states. Specimens of some, twenty or twenty-five feet high, exist in sheltered places in Central New Jersey. They get browned during severe winters, and would be best under the north side of buildings in cities and towns. The finest tree I remember to have seen was at Columbia, S. C. It was fifty feet high and beautifully proportioned. It also succeeds well in California.

**AGATHIS** is the resurrected name for *Dammara*, a New Zealand species of which is known as the "Kauri Pine." There are about six species, natives of Australasia, and the Malayan and Pacific Islands. They are superb trees, and some of the species ought to be available for California.

**ARAUCARIA** is in ten species, seven of which are in cultivation. There are also a few varieties. They are natives of the southern hemisphere—South America, New Caledonia, the Pacific Islands and Australia. But one of them can be grown towards the north outdoors. This is *A. imbricata*, from the mountains of South Chili. It survived for a few years at Washington, D. C., but is doing best on the southernmost Alleghanies at middle elevations. *A. excelsa*, so popular as a window plant, is reported to do well in some parts of Southern California, and perhaps the extreme south of Florida. It is said to flourish better on the island of Trinidad (B. W. I.) than any other conifer.

It is a magnificent tree on Norfolk Island.

**TSUGA**, "Hemlock spruces," are in at least seven species, with several well marked varieties. They inhabit a large area in the northern and northwestern United States, extending southwards along the Alleghanies, and on the Pacific coast to the mountains of Southern California and Mexico. *T. Sieboldii* is found in Japan, and *T. Brunoniana* in the central and eastern regions of the Himalayas. The varieties of our common kind are distinguished mainly by a pendulous habit, or by a slight variegation.

**PICEA**, "spruce firs," were accorded a dozen species in the *Genera Plantarum*, twenty species are, however, enumerated as being in cultivation in the Kew arboretum, together with a large number of varieties, especially of the Norway spruces. The genus is distinguished by

extend from one northern seaboard to the other. *P. Engelmanni* ranges from British Columbia to the mountain oasis of Arizona. *P. Morinda* behaves in a somewhat paradoxical manner, but may generally be counted hardy from Central New Jersey, southwards along the hills and mountains. Then there is a group of Japanese species which are well worth bearing in mind, such as *P. ajanensis*, *P. sitchensis*, etc.

**CEDRUS**, "Cedar of Lebanon," is accorded three species from Syria, the Himalayas, and the Atlas mountains of North Africa. Sir Joseph Hooker is of opinion, I believe, that there is but little to distinguish one from the other. Connecting forms can unquestionably be selected. *C. Atlantica* seems to be the hardiest form in this country. Both it and *C. Libani* endure well as far north as New York City. There is a good tree at Professor

Marquands, Princeton, N. J., (formerly Judge Field's) fifty-six feet high, which has several times borne cones. It was figured by Downing forty years ago, and noted as being then thirty-six feet high. It still retains its pyramidal shape. Each species varies; *C. Libani* and *C. Atlantica* have glaucous and pendulous varieties, and *C. Deodara* erect, robust, extra green and variegated forms.

**LARIX**, "larch," has eight species and several varieties, natives of the



GOLDEN-LEAVED SCOTCH PINE.

modern botanists as having pendant cones,—in the mature stages. Should anyone discover varieties which keep their cones erect, they would probably consider them aberrant forms, not *Abies*! The genus in its various species are found throughout the temperate and cold regions of the northern hemisphere. A few are excellently adapted for ornamental purposes; *P. excelsa*, with twenty-five or thirty distinct varieties, being one of the most useful and widely planted. *P. orientalis* is often very successful in the middle Atlantic states. *P. pungens*, and its glaucous Rocky mountain variety, has been extensively tried of late years. Several others are kept in nurseries, and in a young state are often very handsome in suitable climates. Some of our native species become bare with age.

Again some of the Pacific coast species are not hardy in the north Atlantic states. *P. alba*, and its variety *cœrulea*, however,

northern hemisphere, from Japan through Asia and Europe to Northwest America. They cannot be dispensed with in ornamental planting.

**PSEUDOLARIX Kämpferi** is a monotypic tree from Japan, known as the "golden larch." It seems to stunt sometimes at the north, but is hardy and beautiful.

**KETELEERIA** has been restored as a distinct genus, after being considered as *Abies* for some years.

**ABIES**, "silver firs," were accorded twenty species in 1883, but twenty-four species are now in cultivation, with six or seven well marked varieties, for the most part color forms. They are natives of the northern hemisphere, ten are North American, five Asiatic, five European, and one is from the mountains of North Africa, which is reported to promise well in Eastern Pennsylvania. *A. Nordmanniana* is a popular, beautiful species. I know of one tree in Central New Jersey, (planted by

\* This subject, commenced in the July number, page 131, will be continued in future months.



Mr. Charles Downing shortly before his death,) upwards of sixty feet high, but spoiled in outline of course, by ignorant care-takers. *A. concolor* has a form called *violacea*, and two of the Oregon species have also glaucous varieties.

*PSEUDOTSUGA*, "Douglas fir," is a magnificent large tree in its own climate. It is found along the mountains from Canada to Mexico. Perhaps the finest specimen in cultivation away from there is in the pinetum at Dropmore, not far from Mr. Astor's, in England. The hardihood of the trees depends largely upon their natural habitat, the Colorado forms being best.

*PINUS*, "Pines," are credited with seventy species, all natives of the northern hemisphere. Of these, about two-thirds are in cultivation in Europe, and although the United States may be regarded as the headquarters of this fine genus, yet it is unusual to find any large collections. Some eastern nurserymen who advertise trees by the 100,000 or more, scarcely know them. A few keep good collections, and at the south they are sent out in pots, which is a safe plan. *P. strobus* and its dwarf varieties, with *P. cembra* and *P. excelsa* are to be com-

Kew arboretum, and they embrace the greater number of kinds available for use in the various sections of this country; the coast ranges of the Pacific states, and the Southern Alleghanies being adapted in climate to their most complete representation. The middle and northern states are adapted to a large number of fine forms, however, and for purposes of shelter from drying winds and winter verdure, they are indispensable. Those who plant them should entrust their selection to their landscape gardeners if they do not know them themselves, and if possible select them from near-by tradesmen.

JAMES MACPHERSON.

Trenton, N. J.

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#### SPRING AND SUMMER IN MY GARDEN.

SEPT. 10th.—*Hibiscus Crimson Eye* is in bloom, a magnificent plant deserving all the praise it has had. I set a mailing plant in the spring of '95, so it has now grown two seasons. It made canes last year four to five feet high, which would have flowered had the frost kept off a little longer. This year it has eight stems, four to six feet high. It is a royal flower which all ought to have, as easily grown as a sunflower, perfectly hardy and worth having for its bold, tropical look if it never had a blossom. The great white flowers have five overlapping petals; there is a bright red spot at the bottom of the cup, and red stains here and there on the petals; the conspicuous stamens and pistils are bright yellow. Each flower lasts only a day or two, but there is a long succession of them,—longer than the frost will allow to develop, perhaps. It has red stems and veins bright in the early season,—somewhat faded now. It stands on earth thrown out of the cellar, too near the house to get its full supply of rain and there has been a drought lately. The native hibiscus or marshmallow, *H. moscheutos*, just like the *Crimson Eye*, except the bright pink tint of its flowers and its lack of red veins and stems, is a swamp plant, so I infer the *Crimson Eye* would not object to dampness, though it will bear any amount of dry soil and weather, as I saw both last year and this.

The Japan plum, *Eleagnus longipes*, might be called old gold from the tint of its twigs and young leaves. The under side of its old leaves looks like frosted silver. It is a beautiful little shrub even if it does not as yet bear flower or fruit,

perfectly hardy so far (the third season).

SEPT. 13th.—A still, cloudy day, with a feeling and the look of autumn. Many flowers are gone that I have mentioned in these papers, but there is a crimson fountain of *Amaranthus Gibosus*. *Cosmos* is in bloom, there is a blaze of petunias and sweet peas; *Snow on the Mountain*, *Euphorbia marginata*, makes a show of what looks like green-and-white flowers; *Vick's aster* is a bank of bloom, most all



INDIAN CEDAR—CEDRUS DEODORA.

mended. So also are *P. densiflora*, *P. Laricio* and its many varieties, *P. mitis*, *P. Montana* and its variety *Mughus* and others, also *P. pungens*, and the "Scotch pine" *P. Sylvestris* in eight or ten varieties—dwarf, pendulous, and variegated in gold and silver. Many others are adapted to the milder regions of the south and the Pacific coast.

There are 227 species and varieties of this tribe of conifers cultivated in the



ORIENTAL SPRUCE—PICEA ORIENTALIS.

red, only a few white ones, and some of these have crimson stained petals. The *Nicotiana affinis* is covered with fragrant white flowers. The crimson four o'clocks are full of flowers every day. There are a few late hollyhocks started from seed last spring; the *Sedum spectabile* is still perfect; *heliopsis* and *Helianthus multiflorus* also. *Colchicum* and *Clematis paniculata* are just coming into flower; *Lilium lancifolium rubrum* is just done, a lovely lily, the latest of all so far as I know, hardy and easy to grow. But *caliopsis* and annual phlox are rather seedy; the pansies have felt the drought. Balsams and portulaca are gone; the perennial phlox is past its prime though it still shows thousands of flowers. Soaking rains washing off the dead flowers and reviving the plants would do a good deal for it yet.

The porch is draped with *Maderia* vine,



just coming into flower; the Japanese morning glories still bloom and there are dark ricinus plants close by. The Fire on the Mountain, *Euphorbia heterophylla*, is in bloom but no red bracts are in sight yet. My Japan maples are a foot, or nearly, high, much taller than any native maple ever gets the first season from seed; if they will stand the winter they will be an acquisition, though all that I raised have only green leaves.

SEPT. 22nd.—Fire on the Mountain is a splendid foliage plant, whether it produces its fiery bracts or not. My two years' experience is that it is much more slender and upright than the catalogue pictures show it to be, a tall level-topped plant, showing the whole length of its perfectly erect stem instead of a mass of branches. Very few plants have leaves of a darker, richer green than those of this *Euphorbia*, and their varied forms is another interesting feature. The flowers, scarcely visible, are as green as the leaves and only the yellow stamens give specks of color. Now a few of the small leaves round the flowers begin to redden but the frost will get here too soon no doubt.

The musk-mallow, *Malva moschata*, mowed last summer when it got seedy, has sprung again from its ashes and is in flower, and the dahlias feel the late rains. The eulalia has its spikes in its sheaths just ready to unfold but it will hardly bloom this year. *Anchusa italica* is beginning to bloom again.

SEPT. 24th.—A killing frost came a night or two ago and every corn-stalk, potato vine, tomato plant and squash vine is dead. *Euphorbia heterophylla* is laid out; *E. marginata* droops a little, but is not injured much. *Clematis crispa*, *C. paniculata* and *C. Virginiana* are good as new. The dahlias are cut down, but the dahlia sunflower and *heliopsis* are all right. The Japan maple was untouched; the southern-wood, *Artemisia*, is fresh and fragrant as ever; *Nicotiana affinis* lost a few flowers but will soon recover; *Sedum spectabile* came through all right; the Pearl *Achillea* is bright as ever; Vick's branching aster was very slightly injured; the New England aster and perennial phlox were not affected in the least. The late hollyhocks, drooping at first, will recover. *Acroclinium roseum* and *helichrysum* are going ahead as if

nothing had happened; the hardy *hydrangea* is intact and the *Eleagnus longipes* and Buffalo Berry are frost proof. The Japan iris, *Kämpferi*, does not fear frost, it is fresh and green as ever. This plant set in the spring of '95 would have flowered this year had not a great caterpillar bored the flower stalk its whole length.

Last spring I sent for the Royal Red tomato and found it a most excellent sort, hardy, vigorous and productive, smooth, highly colored and good in every way.

The Danish Ball-head cabbage has the hardest heads I ever saw on a cabbage and are very large.

OCT. 3rd.—The woods are resplendent with autumnal dyes, but flowers are less

favorable one for both flowers and fruits will be ended, and here ends Spring and Summer in My Garden.

E. S. GILBERT.

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#### VINES IN TREE FORM.

SOME of our hardy vines are beautiful when grown in tree form. True, "vines are nature's drapery," and to follow Dame Nature's plan is generally the most satisfactory way, but a change is sometimes agreeable.

*Wistaria*, the old favorite, is one of the best vines to experiment on. Set out a young plant in a favorable situation, and let it grow to a height of four or five feet without branching. Tie it to a stout stake to support it, and when it has reached the height mentioned, pinch out the end of the plant; this will cause it to send out several new shoots near the top of the plant and if too many start, or if they grow too far down on the stalk, some of them must be removed. Let these branches grow a few inches and then pinch all the ends. This treatment must be continued until the tree is of good form, as some of the branches will grow out too long, and droop down, while others will branch too thickly and they must be pruned often to keep the tree symmetrical.

*Bignonia radicans*, or trumpet creeper, is also a fine vine for this purpose; its extreme hardiness and beauty, both of foliage and blossom make it an ornament to any yard. There is one near my house that for beauty eclipses any vine that I know of. Its original intention was to be

a vine, but by force of circumstances it was obliged to become a tree. It was originally planted against a dead tree to cover it. By the time the young vine had climbed up to the branches, a severe wind storm broke off nearly all the branches of the tree, and also broke back the vine. A series of disasters followed, so that the vine was broken and remained in bad shape throughout the season. The next spring it started out new branches all around the top, strong and healthy, and with the support of the broken tree soon grew into the form of an umbrella. A few of the branches were pinched back to keep it in the desired form and now it is independent of the old tree, and stands a beautiful example of what a vine can do



COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE.

abundant. Some seedling perennial phloxes are still fresh and bright,—are just coming into bloom in fact; the dahlia sunflower is pretty yet; the New England aster and the wild Aster miser (Starved aster) under the trees are bright as ever. The autumnal crocus, *Colchicum*, is still in bloom. One can cut great bouquets of Vick's aster as good as ever, but the general look of the beds is rather seedy. Now that the herbage is fading the patches of myrtle, *Vinca minor*, assert themselves. The purple dead nettle, *Lamium*, is a dense mat of rough variegated evergreen, or nearly evergreen, foliage; the Japan quince and the Japan maples show no change as yet. A few more days and the season of '96, a most



for itself when it has nothing to cling to. This plan can be followed for *Bignonia radicans* in much the same way as was given for wistaria; but perhaps it would be better to place a larger stake and let the vine grow eight or nine feet before pinching out the end. Then pinch back as often as the branches get too long, until after a while they will not hang down at all, but interlace, and the ends grow upward towards the light, making a lovely living umbrella.

BERNICE BAKER.

with large, blue, star-like flower heads in the earlier part of summer. The blue *Plumbago Larpentæ* is one of the best late blooming plants and the variously colored *Campanula Carpathica* flowers nearly all summer.

"With very little care any of the above plants may be kept in bounds, an occasional trimming being required by some, but most of them will naturally form a well defined sharp edging without the repeated use of shears or spade.

"The best time to transplant ordinary perennials is early in the fall, early enough to allow the formation of young roots before cold weather

crowns from wind and sunshine,—not from frost and snow, as "weather" is good for them. By taking a box or two into the house each week we can have lilies of the valley from New Year's until they bloom again in the yard.

One of our friends who is especially fond of these lilies, packs a number of flats away in his icehouse, and brings them out at intervals for blooming all summer. The engraving shows one of his mid-winter benches in full flower. The lilies can be made to bloom very



GREENHOUSE BENCH OF LILIES OF THE VALLEY.

#### DWARF HARDY PLANTS FOR EDGING.

A list of hardy perennial plants suitable for the edging of beds is given by "K." in *Gardening*. For a bordering of three inches in height are recommended *Erysimum pulchellum*, the white *arenarias* in several sorts, the blue flowering variety of *Ajuga reptans*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Silene acaulis*, *Aubrietia* and *Astragalus hypoglottis*.

For a taller edging, up to six inches or more, can be used *Arabis albida*, *Armeria* of several kinds, *Erinus alpinus*, variegated *funkias*, *Iris pumili*, *Linaria alpina*, *Phlox subulata*, *Polemonium reptans*, *Saponaria ocymoides*, *Silene alpestris*, *Silene Schafta*, *Viola cornuta*, *Iberis sempervirens* and *Iberis correæfolia*.

"*Tunica saxifraga* is also a first-class edging plant but should only be used where a wide bordering is required. *Aster alpinus* is covered

sets in; fall plantings start more vigorously the following spring and give generally better satisfaction; especially is this noticeable in early flowering species, while the difference is not so marked in the later blooming plants, because they have a longer season to gain strength and perfect their growth on which they are to flower."

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#### LILY OF THE VALLEY.

IT is a surprise to see so many complaints of failure in forcing lily of the valley, for it responds very readily to congenial treatment. I remember that we did not attempt to bloom this plant in winter until several fine beds of it had been established in the yard. Now we simply lift selected sods of good roots late in fall, shake enough of the earth away to get them into boxes of convenient size, and set the boxes outdoors in some sheltered place. A light covering of earth or ashes is given to protect the

quickly after potting, as they do not need to become rooted before flowering, like hyacinths and tulips.

An idea seems to prevail that in order to succeed well outdoors, lily of the valley needs to be planted in a moist, shady place. It shows that it appreciates such situations by rank growth, but I have it growing, and blooming finely every year, upon a dry cemetery hilltop. L. G.

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#### EARTHWORMS AND POTTED PLANTS.

Earthworms in the soil of plant pots can be driven out by the use, it is said, of horse chestnuts. The meat of the nut is grated and then soaked in water—one part by bulk of the pulp to nine parts of water. Let it stand twenty-four hours and then strain it, and it is ready to use, pouring it on the soil.





ROCHESTER, N. Y., OCTOBER, 1897.

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CHARLES W. SEELYE, Editor.

ELIAS A. LONG, Associate,  
(formerly conductor of *Popular Gardening*).

Publishers are invited to use any articles contained in this number, if proper credit is given.

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#### Vicks Magazine,—Past, Present and Future.

With the present, October, number this MAGAZINE closes its 20th volume. During these years it has aimed to popularize the knowledge of flower culture, cultivation of house plants, vegetable and fruit gardening, the planting and ornamentation of grounds, and all gardening pursuits. That it has, to a great extent, been successful in its mission there is abundant testimony. A considerable number of similar publications have in the meantime been started,—some have had their day and passed away, and some are now spreading the good news which helps to cheer home life, makes the world appear brighter, and the practical application of the arts of gardening causing the earth to bring forth in abundance its fruits and its flowers for our pleasure, comfort and sustenance. In this great country there is room for many publications of this kind and it is a cheering sign that they are appreciated and supported.

At the commencement of a new volume we are pleased to say to our readers that their wants and interests in garden lore will continue to be watched, guarded and promoted as heretofore by the publishers of this journal, with the added ability which experience may confer. With the best of editorial ability, excellent and experienced contributors, and by the use of handsome engravings, we shall lay

before our readers a monthly issue which will be handsome, practical, reliable and valuable to every plant and flower grower and garden cultivator. With this end in view we do not hesitate to ask the continued support of our patrons, the renewal of their subscriptions, and their influence in enlarging our lists.

In this connection we would invite attention to the splendid line of premiums offered to subscribers, as published last month, and again in the present issue. Especially do we mention the offer of the Rathbun blackberry in connection with a year's subscription to the MAGAZINE for 50 cents. Everyone who has a garden should have this plant. Its qualities and merits have been fully set forth in our pages. In a word, this variety is the superior of any blackberry ever cultivated, and its popularity is assured as soon as known. As the plant propagates itself by rooting at the tips of the shoots, like a blackcap raspberry, anyone having only a single plant may quickly provide himself with a sufficient supply. Every person sending 50 cents for the MAGAZINE can have one of these plants sent by mail postage paid. For those who may prefer something else other premiums are provided, and we ask that the list shall be carefully examined. Then send in your orders and we will wait upon you with promptness.

\*\*\*

#### Year-Book of the Department of Agriculture.

The volume of this publication for the year 1896, has been received. It is of fine appearance and contains much interesting and valuable matter. There is a frontispiece consisting of fine portraits of Senator J. S. Morrill, and the Hon. Wm. H. Hatch; the former is styled "Father of the Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges," and the latter "Father of the Agricultural Experiment Stations."

The Secretary in his Report gives some details concerning the seed distribution by Congress, and "Sincerely regrets this unnecessary and wasteful expenditure of public moneys, and hopes that Congress may in good time put a stop thereto."

The titles of some of the papers published in this volume are as follows:

Extermination of Noxious Animals by Bounties, T. S. Palmer.

The use of Steam Apparatus for Spraying, L. O. Howard, Ph.D.

Influence of Environment in the Origination of Plant Varieties, Herbert J. Webber.

Potash and its Function in Agriculture, H. W. Wiley.

Some common Poisonous Plants, V. K. Chesnut. Timothy in the Prairie Region, Thomas A. Williams.

Irrigation on the Great Plains, Frederick H. Newell.

The Blue Jay and its Food, F. E. L. Beal. Seed Production and Seed Saving, A. J. Peters. Insect Control in California, C. L. Marlett.

Diseases of Shade and Ornamental Trees, B. T. Galloway and Albert F. Woods.

Migration of Weeds, Lyster H. Dewey.

The Improvement of Native Fruits, L. H. Bailey.

The Superior Value of Large, Heavy Seed,

Gilbert H. Hicks and John C. Dabney.

The Asparagus Beetle, F. H. Chittenden.

Olive Culture in the United States, Newton B. Pierce.

Some Standard Varieties of Chickens, George E. Howard.

Propagating the Orange and other Citrus Fruits,

Herbert J. Webber.

Pruning and Training of Grapes, E. G. Lodeman,

\*\*\*

#### A Japanese-raised Chrysanthemum.

An enormous seedling plant of chrysanthemum is represented on page 183. This plant was raised last year in Japan by a Japanese gardener. It was trained to a single stem, from which it branched in every direction. The width through it one way was thirteen feet, and the other way nine feet nine inches; the height was six feet six inches. Each flower branch was allowed to bear only a single flower, and of these there were 800. Patience and skill was required to train it into the regular shape given it, and to cover it symmetrically with blooms, while a border of foliage surrounded the base.

\*\*\*

#### Canna Lucien Linden.

A seedling, large-flowered canna has been obtained by M. DeBosshere, a horticulturist of Anvers, France, which is a very noticeable novelty. The floral spike is of large size, and the flowers of a very distinguished color—a vermilion mingled with orange, and the foliage is the darkest color of any variety of canna hitherto known. The plant is vigorous and makes a fine growth in the open ground. This novelty has been dedicated to the editor-in-chief of *La Semaine Horticole*, Lucien Linden, and will bear his name.

\*\*\*

#### Nitrate of Soda and Aquatic Plants.

An account is given in *La Semaine Horticole* of a test of nitrate of soda on certain plants. Employed at the value of one-quarter ounce to a gallon of water (two grammes par litre) in watering the calla, or *Richardia Africana*, the results produced by this substance were surprising. The inference is made that a light addition of nitrate of soda could be made with advantage to the water of the pond or basin where aquatic plants may be growing.

\*\*\*

#### Thanks for Favors.

The engravings in connection with the article "Coniferales," by James MacPherson, this month, are due to the courtesy of our friends, having been loaned to us by *Park and Cemetery* of Chicago, Ellwanger & Barry of this city, P. J. Berckmans of Augusta, Ga., and Samuel C. Moon of Morrisville, Penn. They will therefore please accept thanks for the kindness.



# Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. EDITOR.

## Cosmos.—Cobœa.

I would like to know whether the cosmos will live out through the winter and bloom the next year? Will the cobœa come up and bloom the next year?

Sherburne, N. Y.

MRS. R.

Neither of these plants is hardy. The frost will cut them down.

++

## Shrub for Name.

I enclose a leaf and flower of a shrub that came up itself; I would like to know the name of it, and if it is of value I will transplant it.

E. S.

Hingham, Mass.

The plant is *Spiræa callosa*, one of the best of the spiræas.

++

## Replanting Gooseberries.

I have some old Downing gooseberry stocks which were planted too close; can I replant them, and when is the best time?

A. R.

Hamilton, O.

They can be transplanted this month, October.

++

## Shrubby Calceolaria.

Will you kindly give the botanical name of the enclosed flower? I call it "Fisherman's Basket." Please let me know whether it is hardy.

Pittsburg, Pa.

MRS. W. C. C.

The plant is the shrubby calceolaria, *Calceolaria rugosa*, or *C. integrifolia*. It is not hardy. It is propagated both by cuttings and seeds.

++

## Old Gloxinia Bulbs.

I have gloxinias six years old from seed. The buds blasted badly this summer, and some last year,—is it because the bulbs are old and have lost their vigor? I have given the same treatment all the time, and they were very beautiful the first three years,—no blasting of buds. It is not because water has fallen on them.

H. M. C.

Deep River, Iowa.

The bulbs have outlived their usefulness. Restock with young and vigorous bulbs.

++

## Pink, and Goldflowers.

I bought of you last spring several perennial plants and all are doing well except the hardy pinks and the goldflower,—the first does not grow, and the latter grew two or three inches, then wilted. Heavy rains soon after they were set, and also during the past fortnight, I have thought may be the trouble. Should both be left where they are in the ground?

Margaretville, N. Y.

I. P. G.

Leave the plants where they are, and give them a slight covering of litter this fall.

++

## A Native Plant.

Can you tell me the name of the plant of which a specimen is enclosed? Does it grow from seed, and have you the seed?

Racine, Wis.

MRS. J. W.

The plant is the purple thoroughwort, or Joe-Pye weed, *Eupatorium purpureum*. It is not an uncommon native plant which grows on the borders of woods and in low, rich grounds in all of the northern States. The seed is not offered for sale.

++

## Propagating Clematis.

In looking over the Letter Box of the MAGAZINE I concluded to ask how to propagate the clematis,—are the plants obtained from seeds or sprouts? I have a

handsome one, Henryi; it was a mass of white in June.

L. W.

Allentown, N. Y.

The large-flowered varieties of clematis are propagated by grafting on other vigorous root-stocks, when the assistance of frames or greenhouses and professional skill is required.

++

## Plant for Name.—Sowing California Yellow Bells.

1—I send a leaf and blossom for name.

2—How should the seed of the California Yellow Bells be sowed? I do not succeed with them.

Buffalo, N. Y.

MRS. M. S.

1—The plant is *Ipomœa coccinea*, variety *hederifolia*.

2—The seeds are usually sowed in the open ground, early in spring. We should be pleased to have reports from our readers who have raised plants of the California Yellow Bells.

++

## Japan Anemone.

The violets and all the other flowers received are doing well except the *Anemone Japonica alba*, which is not growing, although in a sunny location, with fairly rich soil and plenty of water. Will you tell me through the MAGAZINE what I can do? As I have tried the anemone three times I feel as if it were not my fault. The plants have grown almost none since planted. I had an idea from your description the flowers were very much like cosmos, of which I am very fond, but which blooms too late to be satisfactory.

E. D.

Cleveland, O.

This anemone often makes but little growth the first year after transplanting, but after that the growth will probably be satisfactory.

++

## Worms and Lice.

1—Will you kindly publish a remedy for worms on sweet pea vines? I have discovered a small, dark colored worm, about an inch long, that is eating the leaves.

2—Can you tell me what will destroy green lice on plants in a window-box?

MISS J. R.

Duluth, Minn.

1—If there are but a few worms we should try to secure them by hand-picking; but if very numerous they may be destroyed by sprinkling the plants with Paris green and water, the same as for potato bugs.

2—Tobacco water or a solution of tobacco soap will destroy green lice or aphids.

++

## A Seedling Exotic Vine.

Can you inform us how to save and take care of a California grape vine? We raised it from the seed about six years ago; it grew nicely in summer, but in winter it froze down to the ground the first three years, then we boxed it in, in the fall, and it did not freeze and has grown since, but has not yet borne any grapes. Now can you inform us if there is any particular way to treat the vine to get it to bear?

Buffalo, N. Y.

MRS. J. H.

As the vines mostly cultivated in California are exotic varieties, so this one is probably a seedling of some European variety, and tender in this region, and particularly susceptible to mildew. It is time and trouble wasted in caring for it, as it will never prove to be of any value. Perhaps the easiest way to give it winter protection is to lay it on the ground, late in the season, and cover it with sods. But we cannot advise it to be kept with any prospect of satisfaction from it. It must be regarded merely as a curiosity.

## White Grubs.—Strawberry Runners.

1—What do you consider the most efficacious means of exterminating the white grub among strawberry plants?

2—Should strawberry runners be trimmed off before and while fruiting?

I wish to say that your seeds have given me great satisfaction. I believe King of the Dwarf peas to be superior to all other dwarf varieties.

G. H. K.

Strawberry Point, Iowa.

1—Little or nothing can be done to destroy the white grub among strawberry plants. The remedy consists in the careful preparation of the land before planting and ridding it of the pest. Fall plowing is especially beneficial, and the chickens should be encouraged to follow the plow to pick up the grubs.

2—Strawberry runners may be cut at any time.

++

## Crimson Rambler.—Lily of the Valley.

1—Last year I bought and set out one of your Crimson Rambler roses; at first it seemed to be dying, but with care it improved and as the season advanced it grew rapidly, but did not produce roses. It kept well over winter, and has been growing very fast this season; there are several branches, some of them are six feet long, but "nary a rose." I have other roses in the same soil that are doing well. I have used manure water and mulched it with straw, but no use,—lots of bush, beautiful foliage, but no roses. Can you say why?

2—When is the best time to set out lily of the valley bulbs?

My asters are growing nicely; I was very proud of my Branching asters last year,—they began to bloom in August and I supplied the neighborhood with large, beautiful flowers; some of them were as large as saucers and were admired by everyone who saw them, and many came to see them, having heard of their beauty.

Am sorry to say Vick's Caprice rose did not stand the winter; will try again next year.

W. B. P.

Boone, Iowa.

1—The Crimson Rambler rose is all right. It is often the third year before it blooms very much. It is a great grower, and until it has made considerable growth its energies are applied in this way; afterwards it blooms regularly every year.

2—Lily of the valley can be planted any time in autumn after the first of October.

++

## Lily of the Valley.—Currant Worms.

1—Will you tell me what is the reason my lilies of the valley do not bloom more freely? Have had them five or six years and they do not have more than three stems of flowers.

2—When is the proper time to sprinkle currant worms with hellebore?

MRS. H. C.

Lucas, Wis.

1—The climate of some of the northern parts of this country is not well adapted to the lily of the valley. Not but what it will survive almost anywhere, but the extreme heat and often severe drouths of summer are unfavorable to the perfect development of the plants. It should be remembered that the flower panicle is formed during the summer, enclosed in the bulb or pip, and considerable moisture is required to enable it to form perfectly and of full size. Hot, dry weather, especially during the spring and summer, is not conducive to its welfare. Again, another trying time for the plant is often the early spring. Whenever we have very mild weather the latter part of February or early in March, and after that severe freezing weather, as is often the case, the plants may start enough to make



the enclosed flowers very susceptible to the cold, and thus get nipped in the bud, and no one the wiser. But when the mild weather comes in reality, we wonder why the lily of the valley does not bloom. It is probable that a light mulch over the plants during winter might be a benefit.

2—Spray currant bushes with hellebore and water whenever infested with worms.

see on every hand old straw-stacks rotting down, when they might be put to such use with great benefit. Many a farmer who does not grow these delicious and useful small fruits, because he does not have time to cultivate them, and many others who allow their fruit patches to become a jungle of weeds, might put these old straw-stacks to some use, much

time, and putting it on deep enough to keep down the weeds, no cultivation will be required the next spring or summer and the fruit will attain wonderful perfection, much finer than can be grown by the most thorough cultivation. Both of these fruits are shallow rooted, and cultivation destroys the small feeding roots, and again drought frequently cuts the crop short. If the ground is mulched sufficiently deep to keep down weeds,—say about one foot deep,—no cultivation at all will be needed, the plants will be spared the continual root pruning caused by cultivation, the canes will make an enormous growth, and will bear immense crops.

During the fruiting season the mulch protects the soil from the sun and keeps it cool, and by capillary attraction draws moisture from below, preventing injury from drought.

Raspberries or blackberries on good land and kept well mulched will yield fully double the amount of fruit that they do under ordinary cultivation and the fruit will be much finer; in severe drought when on unmulched plants the fruit will hardly be worth gathering, that on plants mulched will be large and fine. Any sort of litter will serve as a mulching material, but whatever is used should be applied thickly enough to keep down weeds.

MARTIN BENSON.

\* \*

#### A ROSE HEDGE.

A handsome illustration of a hedge of *Rosa rugosa* is given in *Gardening*, and W. C. Egan recommends it highly for an ornamental hedge. The plants are not affected by the heat of summer or the cold of winter, and insects do not infest them. They bloom freely in June, but go on blooming all though the summer, and besides it matures its fruits or hews which are like great red cherries, as beautiful as the flowers.

"The flowers are single, large, opening out well, and have that delicious 'wild rose' scent we all greatly appreciate."

This rose and Madame Plantier are the most desirable kinds for a rose hedge at the North, as both are quite hardy and vigorous growers.



SINGLE HYACINTH, LA GRANDESSE.

SINGLE HYACINTH, CZAR PETER.

#### MULCHING RASPBERRIES AND BLACKBERRIES.

**F**RUIT growers seem to have little idea of the great value of mulching, in the cultivation of these fruits; at least this is the case in the west, where in almost all sections of the country one can

more profitable than allowing them to rot where they stand, as is the universal custom in the west, affording after several years a few loads of poor manure. By using this straw to mulch the blackberries and raspberries, and putting it on in the fall and winter, when one has plenty of





**A fruit diet for health.**

**Let us have a tidy fall garden.**

**The autumn for pæony planting.**

**Marigolds snap their fingers at rain, so to speak.**

**House slops to the garden plat, not to the drain.**

**This is the time to mention this MAGAZINE to your friends.**

**For thin spots in the lawn grass, an October top dressing is a good restorative.**

**Winter apples will be worth some special care this year. Every bushel will be wanted, as the crop is a short one generally.**

**Steam vs. insects.** Albany, N. Y., has invested in a steam spraying apparatus for dealing with elm-leaf beetles and other pests of the town trees.

**A hint from the florists.** Roses and other cut flowers last longer if the ends of the stems are snipped off a little, each morning, when the water is changed.

**No failures here.** Again we would remind those who have failed with every other kind of winter-flowering plants, to try hyacinths and tulips in pots. They are the very easiest of winter bloomers to succeed with.

**How about asparagus?** Where there is no bed let one be planted this fall. Put off the work until spring and it will be the easier to have it again go by on the plea of "too busy." But have the asparagus bed somehow.

**Plant birches in the fall.** Those five words almost cover the secret of cultivating this most beautiful class of trees. Plant them in the fall, and few trees are surer to grow or easier to handle; defer the setting until spring, as so often is done, and hardly another class is so uncertain.

**Storing fruit.** I have found that most varieties of fruit keep best on shelves in a cool room, and where the fruit can be spread out thinly. I have found that winter fruit keeps better in a cellar that has a dirt floor, than one with a cement floor.—*A. Sanderson, Cass Co., Mich.*

**Gladiolus bulbs.** There is not a bit of trouble in wintering these perfectly, if attention is paid to one point, viz.: Dry treatment. The bulbs should be well dried after digging, then be placed in paper bags or boxes and stored in a dry cellar away from frost. If dryness is not provided they are liable to sprout and spoil. Do not pack the bulbs in sand or anything else.

**This is rather a trying time for chrysanthemums,** and they now can well stand some special care as regards water and food. If allowed just once to suffer severely from drouth the bad effect can never be overcome. Manure water, not too strong, will be excellent diet twice a week. Then they must not be crowded so as to cause a single leaf to turn yellow and drop. Not one can now be spared.

**Paris green worked.** The meadow of South Park, Buffalo, was sometime ago besieged

by large numbers of the army worm. A heavy roller turned upon the invaders destroyed some, but the greater number seemed to escape, owing to the inequalities of the land. A more effective remedy was found in Paris green. This was sprayed on a belt of grass across the affected meadow. Very few worms lived to cross the poisoned strip.



A MENACING SPROUT ON A KILMARNOCK WILLOW.

**The reliable pear.** For many years I have noticed that the pear is the most reliable of fruits. Its crops are more certain than even those of the apple. Then again, no tree takes care of itself so well as the pear; while the fruit comes in considerable quantity sooner than that of almost any other orchard tree. Lastly, no fruit is more highly prized for eating fresh, for stewing, or keeping for winter use by drying, canning and otherwise. *Mrs. L. P. Rainsford, Oneida Co., N. Y.*

**Dollar wheat** is the thing that makes all hearts beat lighter. It is the token of a season of prosperity, for which the country long has waited. It should mean 50,000 new subscribers for the MAGAZINE. Every reader can agree that in the remodeled journal a sowing was made that should result in a harvest here. We have tried well to do our part and more is to follow. Your part, kind reader, is simply to invite your friends to become members of our large family of readers. The price should strike them as being right. Let the harvest begin.

**Glass and plants.** According to a recent report in the *Florists' Exchange* some experiments in the use of plate glass in the Department conservatories at Washington, show its great value in plant structures. Where choice



CELERY BLANCHING SIMPLIFIED:

plants were left under unshaded plate glass all last summer, not a single leaf was scorched, and the plants, including even ferns, have grown into beautiful specimens. Such a thing would be impossible by the use of cylinder window glass. It is likely that the use of plate glass, notwithstanding its greater cost, will

receive something of an impulse, as a result of the experiments at Washington.

**Plant firmly.** This is the season for potting recently struck cuttings, and lifted plants for the window. The writer, as he has observed the way in which many amateurs go about this work, has been struck by one error that is often made,—it is that of planting loosely in the soil. So, in planting trees, the old rule of planting as firmly as one would set a post is really an excellent rule. This simply illustrates the error of supposing that roots thrive best in loose soil. It is a point that every amateur should observe. Even in setting slips in sand or earth, the rooting will proceed better if the substance is packed rather firmly against the cutting. Without question the difference between firm and loose planting is just the difference often between complete success and failure.

**Kilmarnock willow sprouts.** Quite too common a sight is that of Kilmarnock willows running out, through permitting the sprouts from the stock to gain headway. The same trouble is frequently seen in budded trees of various kinds, and in budded roses. Usually the fault may be traced to the fact that the owner of the tree is ignorant of the danger of allowing sprouts to grow. We think this is true in the case here illustrated, sketched from life. In this instance it is seen that a branch has grown upward through the top of the rounded part of the tree. No doubt, in his ignorance, the owner of the Kilmarnock was pleased with this new departure in the form of his favorite. To permit the upward shoot to continue its growth will be quite sure to result in soon killing the drooping Kilmarnock part, and leave in its stead merely a coarse willow bush, unfit for the lawn.

**Celery blanching simplified.** In no department of gardening has there been greater improvement, in the last score of years, than in that of celery culture. It is not far back when the varieties of celery chiefly grown were those known as the tall kinds, and blanched by the earthing-up system, at that. It was a laborious operation, that debarred many home gardeners from attempting the culture of this most toothsome of all succulents. A first step towards improvement in celery culture came with the introduction of the dwarf varieties; it reduced the labor of banking up about one-half, while the quality of the product was even better than before. A recent visit to a market garden district near Buffalo showed a simplified form of paper blanching, in connection with dwarf celery culture, which can be especially commended to amateurs. The paper used is a coarse wrapping paper cut into pieces about a foot wide. When the celery is nearly grown a strip of this paper is wound around each plant after the stems are brought closely together, and a single tie of twine is all that is needed to complete the operation. Usually a little earth is also drawn up against the base of the row. The accompanying engraving shows the old and the new method, side by side. By depending on paper blanching, no grower, on however small a scale, need hesitate to plant and have a plentiful supply of delicious celery.

\* \* \*

**BEDDING BEGONIAS.**—One of the finest flower beds seen this season consisted of *Begonia semperflorens rosea* for the center, surrounded *B. Vernon*. The foliage was uninjured,—in fact, perfect,—in a position fully exposed to the sun.

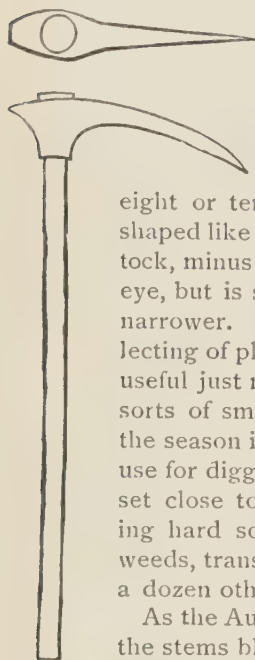


## SEED PODS.

A mistake made this summer that I would warn others against, was planting dwarf *Zephyranthes candida* too deep. With the crowns covered not more than an inch, the plants thrived and bloomed amazingly last year in the full sun.

Who has a fine bunch of cardinal flowers now blazing away in the yard? The seeds will soon be ripening; gather and scatter them in some damp spot, or transplant a vigorous root from the brookside. Gentians, goldenrod, clematis, ampelopsis,—any of the wild perennials may be transplanted now.

A two years' trial of the little, trailing Memorial rose has made me quite a victim to its charms. One of my plants is growing in hard-pan red clay, upon a dry hilltop where it gets the full force of all the weather we have, yet it spreads and blooms beautifully, holding its leaves all winter without killing back at all, or turning brown under summer heat. The single white flowers appear in clusters in June.



The "handiest little tool in the world" was made after an engraving of a plant collector's pick given in VICKS MAGAZINE

eight or ten years ago. It is shaped like the blade of a mattock, minus the part above the eye, but is smaller, lighter and narrower. Besides in the collecting of plants we find it very useful just now for digging all sorts of small bulbs. Early in the season it was constantly in use for digging between plants set close together, for loosening hard soil, removing large weeds, transplanting, and half a dozen other purposes.

As the August lilies fade and the stems blacken, it is a temptation to tidy gardeners to cut them off close to the roots. But to remove lily stems when green means to make the bulb go to rest prematurely, so that the next season the flower-stems will come up weaker and produce smaller flowers. The gardener who is both wise and tidy will be content with removing merely so much of the stem as seems dry and dead from time to time.

To my collection of scarlet and deep red lilies I have recently added the scarlet martagon or Turk's Cap, and am wondering how I came to overlook such a rare little beauty so long. As Mr. Ellwanger truly says, "It is one of the grand things in red. An old clump of it in fiery scarlet flower is a sight for a cardinal bird to dream of, and a humming bird to admire." Its flowers are much the shape and color of the better known Siberian lily, but being more thickly clustered and

lifted on a taller stem they give a more brilliant effect. The plant seems very willing to grow, never refusing to bloom except after removal or some disturbance of its roots; over this treatment it will sulk for perhaps two or three seasons. I have given my bulbs about the same care as Madonna lilies, and believe that we have some beautiful hybrids between the two.

One autumn of most sacred memory we nursed a dear invalid through her last days. It was then that I learned to appreciate the value of potted plants,—hardy ones especially. She had loved flowers dearly all her life, and how wistful her longing eyes would grow as we told her of the plants blooming in her garden outside. The bowl of bright flowers upon the table was a comfort, but she longed to see them growing! Through the wide window of her room she could see a row of potted speciosum lilies whitening their buds in the flickering shadow of an eastern porch. When the fragrant, fringed and pink-tinted flowers flung their petals wide open we brought the plants to her bedside that she might touch and smell them. How we wished for potted auratums, roses, and her favorite white day lilies! Tall potted lilies make beautiful ornaments for any room, and can be grouped with striking effect on the lawn or along the front walk for gala days. The white lilies have much the effect of statuary, only they are more beautiful.

Most lilies love to grow in a flickering shade, especially the auratum. The mid-day sun seems fatal to it, and in exposed situations its great waxen flowers are broken by high winds. Plenty of water also, it demands, and in a soil largely composed of black muck or decayed wood it seems happiest. The reason for frequent failures of *L. auratum* bulbs in American soil, experts explain to us as being beyond mere climate and culture. American grown bulbs, which are to remove the trouble, it is hoped will be entirely free from the dread mite so fatal to *L. auratum* when removed from congenial surroundings in Japan. A close observer will notice that *L. auratum* is a most inconstant grower, varying its beautiful bands of color from bright red to yellow in a few years, so that many of the new names given seem unwarrantable. The fine old yellow-banded type is the most beautiful of them all, however, and its "freaks" add the charm of piquancy.

This time o' year, when the summer, beginning to sadden,  
Full-mooned and silver-misted, glides from the heart of October,  
Mourned by disconsolate crickets and itinerant grasshoppers crying  
All the long nights through, from the ripened abundance of gardens;

When the year's methods have shown their results, and varieties their various merits, time is profitably spent in reviewing this last chapter of "the garden's story." An invaluable help to the practi-

cal gardener is a diary or record-book that contains charts and maps of rose and lily plots, records of plantings, flowerings, successes and failures. Such notes when published are a real and practical help to other home gardeners. We study them more intently than any others published in the MAGAZINE, and detect them easily by their practical ring. Ours can hardly be the methods of the experiment stations, so the lessons that "field cultivators" learn from bulletins, we home gardeners must study out for ourselves by comparing notes contributed by our practical ones. L. GREENLEE.

\*.\*

## AN EPISODE IN MY GARDEN.

AT the farthest end of my garden, is a large spreading pear tree, under which I have several comfortable benches and steamer chairs. I have had Arbor vitae posts set in the ground at the termination of the branches and reaching up to them, and have planted morning glory vines at their base, which clamber up and over the tree in a most charming manner, making the old tree a mass of gorgeous bloom in mid-summer. A charming place to spend a morning. Here my feathered friends come to visit me,—robins, orioles, blue jays, black-birds, song sparrows, wrens and now and then a shy cat-bird or thrush. A dear little ruby throat humming bird and his mate come frequently, and are very tame, allowing me to witness their morning toilets many a time. Such a dainty sight! Many birds came whose name I did not know.

I want to tell you of a comedy I had the good fortune to witness last summer: Close to my corner under the tree is a large iron lamp post, which I had carried from in front of the house, where it had stood useless since the advent of the electric lights. Morning glories were trained up its dingy length and on the very top I had a wren house set. The next morning after its erection, a pair of wrens appeared, and we christened them "Wrennie and Jennie" at once. Wrennie at once proceeded to take possession, and it was amusing to watch his energy in carrying twigs eight and ten inches

## PURIFIED HIS BLOOD.

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Hood's Pills cure all Liver Ill. Easy to operate. 25 cents.



long, working them into the little entrance of the house, which was just the size of a quarter of a dollar. Frequently they fell to the ground, but he would go after them most enthusiastically, fetch them back and work until he succeeded in getting one end of the twig into the hole, into which he would disappear most suddenly, pulling the twig after him.

But a dreadful gad-about was Jennie! Not once did I see her assist with the nest building, but spent her time among the raspberry and currant bushes, while her patient little mate toiled early and late, singing a song after each twig was placed, in happy anticipation.

I frequently protested that he should be made to do all the work, and he would sometimes sit on a branch close by, and with an eye on me and the other on the watch for Jennie, alternately explain in expressive, subdued little monologue, that it was all right, that her time was coming! Then perhaps catching a glimpse of her through the bushes, he would break out in a joyous song and fly to greet her. And so the days went on, and by the time the old tree was white with blossoms, among which the bees hummed so dreamily, Jennie was sitting on four tiny eggs. A low branch hung directly in front of the platform of the house, and amid its blossoms Wrennie sat and sang to her all day long.

One Sunday morning, I knew by the commotion at the lamp post, that the little ones were hatched, and Wrennie was nearly beside himself with excitement and joy. Madame Jennie flew in and out with great hustle and fuss, bringing delicious little green worms, or tiny millers,—I often wondered if the little ones did not find the latter very dry food.

Now it was Wrennie's time to be idle, for never did I see him assist her in the care of the little ones. Occasionally he would inspect the family, but as a rule he spent the time in encouraging Jennie in her enthusiasm, with bursts of applause whenever she appeared with the game so assiduously hunted.

That same afternoon, while watching this little drama, I noticed my constant companion, Jerry, a brown spaniel, intent on some object by the fence. Thinking, perhaps, that he saw a rat, I urged him on. He caught something and shook it gently and dropped it, turning to me for further directions. Wondering at this, I went to investigate, and to my dismay and grief, found I had set him on my little friend Wrennie! He had never shown any fear of Jerry; they were good friends always, but he must have excited Jerry's suspicions, as in his brown coat he crept along under the fence, and it only needed a word from me for Jerry to obey. I think he died of fright at the sudden attack, for I could not find that he was hurt. As I stood at the foot of the lamp post with the dear little fellow gasping in

my hand, Jennie looked down on us in a most indifferent manner. Who knows what she thought or if she cared at all? I never saw her show any interest in him any way; she was always a most indifferent wife. Well, I buried him at the foot of the lamp post among the morning glories, mourned by one sincere friend at least, and I hope Jenny did feel lonely at times and missed his singing. But she never showed it.

The next morning I felt that the garden had lost some of its brightness, as I walked slowly down the path leading to my tree, and I dreaded the first day without Wrennie's merry singing.

To my amazement and chagrin, there was another wren sitting on the same branch and singing to Jennie. Could it be possible that Wrennie had come to life again! I could not refrain from inspecting his grave, but it had not been disturbed. Now there was this upstart proclaiming his presence and devotion with so much assurance. I watched for Jennie to know her opinion of this impertinence, and was glad to see that she evidently shared my feeling of outraged propriety. She paid not the slightest attention to him beyond a glance out of the corner of her eye as she flew in and out, apparently with no thought but for her family and marketing.

He greeted her coming with a most demonstrative song, and her going with a doubtful little warble, expressing wonder and grief at her inattention. Occasionally he would creep up to the entrance and look in, twitting to himself in a critical way, sometimes catching a twig of the nest and giving it a most vicious jerk.

Jennie, returning from her marketing would fly against him with such sudden violence as to knock him, fluttering and protesting, off the platform. At this time I put another house in a neighboring pear tree, and he at once took possession and began to furnish it, as Wrennie did, with the same ardor and enthusiasm. Only once did Jennie seem interested, and went on a tour of inspection, under and over, and inside the new house, carried two or three twigs and placed them. It was surely done but to encourage him, of that I am convinced, such is the feminine nature, for she returned to her duties and never neglected them again. The young ones came out and such tiny creatures they were, with wide, white mouths, and wondering eyes and no tails worth mentioning. Their mother took them for a three or four days trip into neighboring gardens and when they were able to take care of themselves, she returned to the pear tree and went to housekeeping. During her absence it was amusing to watch the various emotions expressed by Master Wren's voice. Fear and surprise at her apparent lack of appreciation; hope that his devotions might still touch

her heart and that she would return to him. And he was rewarded.

My heart too, had softened under the ardor of his love, and I was not sorry when another little family came out in the garden and the currants and rose bushes were kept clear of slugs and creeping things all summer.

E. E. P.

\*\*\*

#### CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French, or English, will full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 520 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

\*\*\*

#### THUNBERGIA AS A WINDOW PLANT.

**W**OULD you enjoy the twinkle of myriad stars all through the long, cold winter? Then be sure, sometime this summer, to start a plant of golden thunbergia. The little golden stars will shine under very adverse circumstances, seemingly not needing to borrow much light directly from the sun.

Last year when transplanting mine, I planted several in pots, and soon they began to bloom. I had four varieties; pure white, with black center, straw color, and bright yellow, and am still unable to decide which variety is my favorite. However, I had the best success with the latter, as it grew in a large brown pitcher, where it could be accommodated lavishly with soil. It was allowed to run on a home-made wire trellis about two feet in height, and until one very cold night during the winter, when Jack Frost invaded my floral sanctum, it was literally spangled with golden stars. A white one took up its abode in a large white sugar-bowl which had been disabled by a crack, and the vine was not trained perpendicularly, but allowed to creep down the side of the bowl, and the result was fine. Hereafter thunbergia shall be one of my floral friends, as it has proven so loyal.

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## OCTOBER.

When alone the stubble dry  
 Stands where danced the bearded rye,  
 When the fields of waving corn  
 Are of all their glory shorn;  
 When the squirrel's challenge shrill  
 Rings across the noontide still,  
 And the ripe nuts patter down  
 On the happy urchin's crown;  
 When the sunflower droops its head,  
 When the maple's leaf is red,  
 Nests no longer tenanted,  
 And white frosts at morn appear,  
 Then October's horn we hear.

A. M. L. HAWES.

Stroudwater, Me.

\* \*

## EASTER FLOWERS IN NEW YORK CITY.

A correspondent in New York sent us, too late for publication in our number for last May, some notes in regard to the flower sales in that city last Easter. Some extracts from these notes are here presented.

Flowers were carried in the streets and treasured in the alcove, they seemed to be everywhere, and, if report is to be believed, in such profusion as Father Knickerbocker, with all his years, never knew before. Startling are the stories of the fortunes spent for flowers at this glad Eastertide; some say a million dollars is not too much to guess as the sum and total of the whole expense; but whatever it may be, it is enough to make one's eyes stick out in wonder. The Easter flower market at Union Square Saturday morning brought troop after troop of buyers, in spite of the rain. It was the most beautiful exhibition that the flower peddlers have given the citizens of New York. The great plaza at the northern end of the square was fairer even than the throng of pretty faces which showed great admiration for the beauties of nature.

Wagons had lined up in Seventeenth street by five o'clock and there was a great rush for purchases. The buyers are generally experts, and the peddlers know this. As a rule, inferior specimens do not sell for more than they are worth in the market. The display was of the best. There were Bermuda lilies, calla lilies, hyacinths, tulips, narcissus, lily-of-the-valley, hydrangeas, roses, pansies, geraniums, azaleas, petunias, verbenas, heliotropes, mignonette, smilax, buttercups, and other flowers in abundance.

If all that is said is to be believed, there was never before in all the history of New York Easters such magnificent displays of flowers in the florists' windows. Lilies, roses, azaleas, and flowers of almost countless other kinds were to be seen, bank upon bank, from the plate-glass almost to the ceiling. Crowds of people stood before these windows and feasted their eyes upon the glories of the flowers.

Stepping into Fleischman's at Broadway and Twenty-fifth street, is a transit from desert to fairyland. The eye is bewildered with the variety of cut flowers and potted plants, and the mirrors on sides and ceiling quadruple the show. Mr. Fleischman, being asked which flower in his opinion was the most popular at Easter, said: "Among the potted plants, the azalea is the most popular; among the cut flowers, it is a close race between violets and American Beauty roses. Fine tea roses sell at this time at from two to four dollars a dozen, violets at one dollar a bunch, American Beauty roses at from six to eighteen dollars a dozen, Ascension lilies at three dollars a plant and azaleas at from four

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to eight dollars a plant. This year fashion dictated that the young man who wishes to give a young woman a token of esteem shall present her with a basket of azaleas or a bunch of either violets or American Beauty roses, tied with a large bow of broad satin ribbon."

"Easter lilies," said Florist Thorley, "always have been and are to-day the most popular flowers at Eastertide. Both for decorating churches and for private gifts they continue in popular favor, and they will stay there until some flower is found which is more symbolical of the day. The azalea is a close second to the lily for church decoration."

"Other potted plants that are much in demand," he continued, "are hyacinths; they can be bought at prices ranging from one dollar upward; pink-and-white heather has a large sale, but it is not used for decorating purposes as much as the other plants. Favorites this year are potted violets. These plants, which consist of about twenty double violets, with their accompanying leaves, are sold rapidly for from two to three dollars per pot. Hydrangeas and rhododendrons, although not so fashionable as the other plants, sell very well, and are largely used in the pulpits of churches as a foreground to the lilies."

With growing extravagance of the New York public, is it to be wondered that the estimate of money spent among three million people runs up at fancy prices to one million of dollars? Of course the florists off Broadway do not charge quite so much on account of less rent.

H. P. HUBBARD.

\* \*

## THE CROCUS FOR BEES.

WHILE admiring my crocus bed last spring I was struck with the industry with which the honey bees were working among the flowers, and at once came to conclusion that every apiarist should have a generous supply of crocuses sprinkled over his lawn for both beauty and utility. During the short time that I watched them, (some fifteen or twenty minutes,) the industrious little bodies seemed to be working for dear life, two and three in one flower at a time, diving down to the base of the petals, then up on the stigma for pollen and away to another flower as fast as their little wings could carry them back to the hive with their load.

One thing I noticed with much surprise, which was that while they all scrambled for the white and the purple-and-white-striped not a bee touched the yellow ones, though all in a mixed bed together; nor did they go as freely to the deep pur-

ple ones as to the lighter color. Afterward, when again watching them, I saw one bee go to the yellow flowers only. While several other bees sought the white and pale purple as well as the blue scillas, that one bee selected only the yellow crocuses passing by dozens of the others in its flight to its chosen color. Have individual honey bees different fancies as to color?

I for one, mean to dot my lawn with hundreds of these earliest of spring flowers when the bulb planting time comes, crocuses and snowdrops, for the bees love them too, and they all do well right in the grass which protects them during winter. The flowers are gone before the time of lawn mowing is here and then the tiny bulbs are taking their rest.

Yes, yes, dear flower lovers and apiarists, plant lots of crocuses for the honey bees as well as for early spring cheer!


E. W. P.

\* \*

## SUCCESS WITH THE SPIDER LILY.

I HEAR much complaint about lack of success in raising *Pancratium Caribæum* or white spider lily; the plants as a rule grow well for almost everyone, but fail to blossom though kept several years. When grown in the proper way the plants are extremely beautiful, and as they are little trouble to care for, anyone can raise them when they know how. The bulbs require a period of complete rest each year, and should not be repotted too often. Like others of the amaryllis family, they do not want their roots disturbed often, once in two or three years being often enough to repot them, if a top dressing of rich soil be given each year. The plant can be treated as some do the amaryllis, when potting the bulb put them in a much larger pot than it requires, but only half fill it with earth, planting the bulb in it with about half of its length above the soil. In a year lift the ball of earth containing the bulb entirely out of the pot, and fill in the bottom of the pot with an inch and a half of rich soil, set the ball of earth in again and fill the space between it and the top with good soil. By following this plan, a bulb can be made to grow in the same pot for several years, and yet do well and blossom each year.





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The rest period of this bulb should be  
in the fall, for about three months, but,  
unlike many plants, they do not lose all  
their leaves at that time.

Usually a resting plant is simply tucked  
away in some shady corner, in the pot in  
which it has been growing and has very  
little water given it, just enough to keep  
it from withering. As soon as there are  
signs of growth, water freely, and give  
plenty of sunshine, and the flower stalks  
will soon show themselves. From a large  
plant there should be several spikes of  
blossoms in a season, and if several bulbs  
are grown in one pot, a grand succession  
of flowers can be had during spring and  
summer.

If a plant does not show signs of resting  
at the proper season, make it rest by  
withholding water and keeping it partially  
shaded, as without this period of rest  
there can be few, if any flowers.

It is claimed by some florists to be per-  
fectly hardy, but I cannot say as to that,  
as mine have always been wintered in  
doors.

BERNICE BAKER.

\* \*

UNCLE'S GARDEN.

The village crowns the river side  
Where gardens are their owner's pride,  
But still I think you ne'er will find  
A garden more to schoolboy's mind  
Than Uncle's garden, all alone,  
Where refuse plants and weeds are thrown.

Outside the garden wall it stands  
Inviting all the eager hands  
Of merry children, on their way  
To school for either work or play;  
And should you ask them how they dare  
To pluck the nodding lillies there,  
"Why, don't you see, these flowers are sowed  
'Most in the middle of the road?"

So here the "Bouncing Bet" grows wild,  
Beloved by every passing child;  
And in the breeze corn lillies nod;  
Here wave the sceptered goldenrod,  
And here sprawls "Gill jump o'er the ground;"  
Here tiny "cheeses" still are found  
When little housewife on her board  
Displays her ample larder's hoard,  
With lilies for her dishes sweet  
And berries from the field to eat.  
This lesson heed: What we despise  
May be another's precious prize.

DAME DURDEN.

"I THINK the retreat from Larissa was the  
most natural thing."

"Why?"

"As soon as Turkey made it hot for Greece,  
why, of course, the latter ran."

~~~~~  
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her infant brother. "If you do you'll grow up  
to be holler-chested, and that's a awful thing to  
be."

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